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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/887,092	06/25/2001	Yasushi Kaneko	971480A	8588
23850	7590	05/18/2004	EXAMINER	
ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP			NGUYEN, DUNG T	
1725 K STREET, NW			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 1000				
WASHINGTON, DC 20006			2871	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application N .	Applicant(s)
	09/887,092	KANEKO ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Dung Nguyen	2871	pw

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 19-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 19-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/07/2003 has been entered.
2. Applicants' amendment dated 03/07/2003 has been received and entered. By the amendment, claims 19-24 are now pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. Claims 19-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al., US Patent No. 5,900,852, in view of Okada et al., US Patent No. 5,532,713, as stated in the final office action.

Regarding claims 19-24, Tanaka et al. disclose a method of driving a liquid crystal shutter comprising the step of setting a scan term for driving pixel electrodes, such that the scan term is shorter than holding time (see figure 2). However, Tanaka et al. do not disclose a reset term during which all the pixel electrodes closed by applying voltage to the pixel electrodes

before the scan term. Okada et al. do disclose a reset term (e.g., clear pulse) can be set before a scan term (e.g., selection pulse) (see figure 9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to set a reset term during which all the pixel electrodes closed by applying voltage to the pixel electrodes before the scan term as shown by Okada et al. in order to reset the display states of all pixels (see col. 8, lines 5-8).

It should be noted, regarding the above claims, it has been held that to be entitled to weight in method claims, the recited structure limitations therein must affect the method in a manipulative sense, and not to amount to the mere claiming of a use of a particular structure. *Ex parte Pfeiffer*, 1962 CD 408 (1961).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 04/07/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive:

Applicants' arguments are as follow:

- a. The cited references, even if combined, do not teach or suggest all the elements of the invention since Tanaka does not disclose a holding time during which a liquid crystal shutter keeps a maximum transmittance higher than a transmittance in an initial open state.
- b. Examiner has not stated a motivation or suggest to combine the cited references.

The Examiner responses Applicants' arguments as follow:

- a. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicants' viewpoint. In particular, Tanaka et al. do disclose a holding time (t_{12}) and an initial open state time (t_{11}), wherein the holding

time during which a liquid crystal shutter keeps a maximum transmittance higher than a transmittance in the initial open state. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Okada et al. reset time to such Tanaka et al. driving method as stated above.

- b. As stated in the previous office action, the combination of Tanaka et al. and Okada et al. would modify the Tanaka et al. driving method having a reset time in order to reset the display states of all pixels (as stated in col. 8, lines 5-8).

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 19-24 stand.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2297. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on 571-272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DN
05/17/2004



Dung Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2871